

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled).

19. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of IL-6, ~~or a mutein, isoform, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction, circularly permuted derivative or a salt thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to treat ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis, wherein the dose is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mcg/kg weight ~~and wherein the fused protein, when present, is IL-6 fused to an immunoglobulin or a fragment thereof, or to gp80 or a fragment thereof.~~

Claim 20-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Previously presently) The method according to claim 19, wherein the method of treatment comprises liver resection.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the dose is about 0.1 mcg/kg or about 1 mcg/kg or about 10 mcg/kg.

Claims 26-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the IL-6, ~~or a mutein, isoform, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction, circularly permuted derivative or a salt thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide is administered daily or administered once a week or administered three times per week.

Claims 29-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the IL-6 is glycosylated at one or more sites.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the IL-6 is not glycosylated.

33. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the ~~fused~~ other protein or

polypeptide to which ~~is~~ IL-6 is fused to ~~is~~ an immunoglobulin (Ig) or ~~to~~ a fragment thereof.

34. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the ~~fused other protein or~~ polypeptide to which ~~is~~ IL-6 is fused to ~~is~~ gp80 or ~~to~~ a fragment thereof.

Claims 35-39 (Cancelled).

40. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis which comprises resection, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of IL-6, ~~a mutein, fused protein, active fraction or circularly permuted derivative thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide to treat ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis including resection, wherein the dose is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mcg/kg weight.

Claims 41-47 (Cancelled).

48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the administration is carried out before during and/or after resection treatment.

Claims 49-54 (Cancelled).

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55. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis followed by engraftment, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of IL-6, ~~a mutein, fused protein, active fraction or circularly permuted derivative thereof~~ or IL-6 fused to another protein or polypeptide to treat ~~liver cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis, wherein the dose is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mcg/kg weight.

Claims 56-58 (Cancelled).

59 (Currently amended). The method of claim 55, wherein the ~~cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis is caused by hepatotoxic agents.

60 (Currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein the ~~cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis is caused by hepatotoxic agents.

61 (Currently amended). The method of claim 40, wherein the ~~cirrhosis~~ hepatic fibrosis is caused by hepatotoxic agents.

Claim 62 (Cancelled).

63. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is an immunoglobulin (Ig) or a fragment thereof.

64. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is gp80 or a fragment thereof.

65. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is an immunoglobulin (Ig) or a fragment thereof.

66. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein the other protein or polypeptide to which IL-6 is fused is gp80 or a fragment thereof.